

Appendx L - TPPC response to DAPTC Parish Council Survey

Minute reference: 25/09-14.i

Answers marked in green are agreed

Question	Council response		
2.5 To what extent is the current annual expenditure budget of your council meeting the 'reasonable' needs and expectations of your community?	Significantly less than desirable		
2.6 How great is the need for the budget to grow significantly faster than the consumer price index to meet currently unmet, emerging or increasing community needs?	Substantial		
2.7 What is the likelihood that your council and community would support such an increase over the next 5 years, should the need arise?	Just possible		
2.8 How much scope is there to increase the precept by more than the consumer price index without significant adverse impacts on the majority of households' standard of living?	Very little		
3.1 A low turnout of voters (less than 25%) in elections undermines our council's democratic and representative role	Agree		
3.2 Dividing parishes into wards creates unnecessary complications and rivalries	Agree		
3.3 Legislation for the local councils sector should define a stronger leadership role for the Chair of Parish Councils.	Agree		
3.4 Most of the community does not engage with our council most of the time	Agree		
3.5 We could make better use of formal Annual Parish Meetings to engage the community.	Disagree		
3.6 We need to increase community consultation and report-back more often on current issues and the Parish Council's activities and achievements	Disagree		
3.7 What are the THREE most significant issues/factors affecting the sustainability of Parish Councils and requires attention going forward?	Cost of elections		
Choose TWO from responses:	Lack of awareness of what PC delivers for community	Short supply of experienced and qualified clerks	PC is too small and may benefit from collaboration with others
	Difficulty in attracting a broader age range to become councillors		
4.1 Please identify your Council's FIVE most costly categories of service delivery (bearing in mind staffing, operational and capital costs).	Parks and gardens including play areas	Community development and wellbeing	

Choose THREE from responses:	Sporting facilities (fields, indoor centres etc)	Community facilities	Environmental issues
	Other: cost of qualified clerk		
4.2 Please identify what you consider to be your council's FIVE most important categories of service delivery in terms of their benefit to the local community	Parks and gardens including play areas	Community development and wellbeing	
Choose THREE from responses:	Planning	Sporting facilities (fields, indoor centres etc)	Community facilities
	Environmental issues	Other: residents advised of issues	
4.4 Please select as many boxes as necessary to show any categories of assets and/or service delivery that have been subject to (actual or attempted) 'downloading' or 'cost-shifting' by Dorset Council to your parish or town.	None since 2019		
4.5 Please select as many boxes as necessary to show any categories of assets and/or service delivery that in your opinion could reasonably be devolved and could be best delivered locally?	Parks and gardens including play areas	Community facilities	Community development and wellbeing
4.6 Has your council and/or other local organisations held recent discussions with Dorset Council regarding possible transfer of assets and/or service delivery?	No		
4.7 If you answered 'yes' to 4.6, which types of assets and/or service delivery were discussed? (If the answer was 'no' move on to question 5.1).	n/a		
4.8 From your council's perspective, were those discussions fruitful?	n/a		
5.1 On the whole, our council has a generally effective working relationship with Dorset Council	Agree		
5.2 On the whole, Dorset Council respects and is supportive of the role played by Parish Councils	Disagree		
5.3 All things considered, our council's relationship with Dorset Council is as good as we had with the previous District Council.	Disagree		
5.4 Usually, we know which officer to contact at Dorset Council when we need assistance.	Agree		
5.5 Access to senior management is usually available within a reasonable timeframe should the circumstances require it.	Disagree		
5.6 Access to Cabinet members is usually available within a reasonable timeframe should the circumstances require it.	Disagree		

5.7 Our council's 'twin hatted' and/or Ward Councillors facilitate effective liaison and awareness with Dorset Council's work in our community, as and when required.	Agree		
5.8 Parish Councils need to work more closely with neighbouring parishes and towns in areas and/or interest-based groups in order to exert more influence on Dorset Council.	Agree		
5.9 New mechanisms* are needed to improve the working relationship between Parish Councils and Dorset Council.	Agree		
5.10 Please specify ONE particular *mechanism that would be most helpful	Local Area Partnerships - groups of parishes / towns with voluntary sector organisations (with no decision making)	Community Area Partnerships- groups of parishes / towns with voluntary sector organisations (with some decision making)	
5.11 Please identify the THREE categories of service delivery in which your council has the best working relationship with Dorset Council.	Streets (maintenance, lighting, cleansing, footpaths, verges etc)	Environmental issues (climate action, countryside)	
5.12 Please select the appropriate boxes to identify the THREE categories of service delivery in which your council's working relationship with Dorset Council most needs to improve	Community development and wellbeing	Planning	Streets (maintenance, lighting, cleansing, footpaths, verges etc)
6.2 What are the key areas of concern for local planning in your parish? Please select the appropriate boxes to identify your THREE most important issues.	Environmental conservation/climate change	Wellbeing (health, loneliness)	
Choose ONE from responses:	Maintaining local character	Public transport	
7.1 Our council will have to make significant changes to its functions and priorities over the next decade to address local needs and maintain quality of life.	Agree		
7.2 Our council can and should become a more robust advocate on behalf of the local community	Agree		
7.3 Parish Councils generally should establish a broader role in 'place making' and community development.	Agree		
7.4 Given that the precept is uncapped currently, Parish Councils have a responsibility to raise precepts in order to do more to fill gaps in service delivery for their community.	Agree	Disagree	
7.5 Both councillors and employees of Parish Councils will need to substantially upgrade their skills to support their community effectively and respond to changing needs in the future.	Agree	Not sure	
7.6 To meet future needs, we should seriously consider amalgamation or a formal shared services agreement with adjoining Town/Parish Councils.	Strong agree	Disagree	

7.7 To improve their performance, all Dorset Parish and Town Councils must greatly increase exchanges of information and expertise in areas of mutual interest.	Strong agree	Disagree	
7.8 We need a thorough governance review into our council's area, ward boundaries and the number of councillors.	Agree		
7.9 Over time, the 2019 reorganisation of local government in Dorset will prove to be a success	Disagree		
7.10 To make the 2019 reorganisation a success, there will need to be a marked shift in the balance of roles, responsibilities and funding from Dorset Council towards larger Towns and Parish Councils, if the delivery of assets and some services are discussed with our council.	Agree	Disagree	

Comment: Small parish councils can really only make a positive impact if asset transfers/joint working with Dorset Council are to be in place and if group parishes are put in place.